**AMBERLEY PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes from the Ordinary Parish Council meeting held on 14th January 2021, 7pm via Zoom video conferencing.**

**PRESENT**: Parish Councillors; Chairman – Geoff Uren (GU), Peter Cozens (PJC), Hazel Allinson (HA), Elizabeth Tooms (ET), Tim Simpson (TS), Jason Charman (JC), Laura Rawnsley (LR) and Leigh Cresswell (LC).

**Also present**: WSCC Leader Cllr Paul Marshall, HDC councillor Diana van der Klugt, Vicky Spiers (VS) the Clerk and 1 member of the public.

**1. CHAIRMAN’S WELCOME/UPDATE**

GU welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies received and accepted from HDC Cllr Paul Clarke and HDC Cllr Brian Donnelly.

**3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST OF ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

None

**4. AGREEMENT OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 12th NOVEMBER 2020**

The minutes were agreed by councillors and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

**5. UPDATE FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

Cllr Paul Marshall advised that as at 7/1/21 the county Covid-19 figures are currently 663/100,000 so are higher than the national figure. Vaccination programme is currently being rolled out, confident that West Sussex will meet the Government target of vaccinating the top four tiers of people by mid-February (approximately 90,000 people). West Sussex hospitals remain resilient though under demand, COVID-19 patients have been transferred in from Kent where numbers are higher.

WSCC looking at budget, there is a £45m funding gap for 2021/22, there is a full council meeting on 22nd February where Paul is hopefully proposals to bridge the gap will be agreed, he was pleased to advise that this would not include the closing of two recycling sites and that County will not be charging for the disposal of household waste.

Cllr Diana van der Klugt advised that HDC finances were under severe pressure due to a drop in revenue, however an unexpected revenue grant from the government means that HDC will be able to present a balanced budget.

HDC continue to prepare their Local Plan, which will go to full council for approval in late spring.

The 1710 yearly housing target for HDC detailed in the White Paper on Planning has been reduced to 1200. Sites are under consideration.

Diana gave details on a Community Climate Support Fund where community groups and Parish councils can apply for funding for initiatives to tackle climate change, full details are on HDC website.

**6. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

TS raised a question from a resident regarding SDNPA Dark Skies policy, they are concerned over the number of bright outside lights that are left on all night and that this is contrary to the Dark Skies policy. After discussion it was agreed that the PC would drop a polite note through any households that are in contrary to the Policy, but it was also noted that there could be valid mitigating reasons for the lighting.

**7. MATTERS ARISING** **(a) Community Speedwatch and B2139 issues** – LR had provided an update prior to the meeting. A zoom meeting was held on 14th Jan with Stephen Douglas (WSCC Highways Traffic Officer), the following next steps were agreed - a follow-up session on 29/01/21 to look at Turnpike Road in more detail (including a request from resident for a continuous pavement from the station to the village), follow-up session date TBC with Neil Vigar, Head of Rights of Way team, to look at a safe pedestrian route from Houghton Bridge to Houghton and then a Community Highways Scheme applications will be drafted for Stephen to review and get some informal design advice on, community input will also be sought.

Community Speedwatch – Houghton now have their own speed gun. The site in Rackham Road was turned down by the Police, despite several emails the PC have been unable to ascertain why.

**(b) Gigabit broadband voucher scheme** – Progressing well. GU thanked Ian Galbraith for all his work on this.

**(c) Update on Parishioners queries** -(i) The stiles along FP 2667 have now been replaced by kissing gates (ii) Hedges along the B2139 – some residents have asked that these are not cut as they act a soundproof and environmental barrier, the hedges belong to Nyetimber, the clerk has passed the request onto their estate manager, unfortunately the estate manager has now left and there is currently no replacement.

**8. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**(a) Planning –**

The list of current planning applications is as follows;



PJC advised that the PADS committee met on 15th December and had a productive meeting.

**(b) Roads and Paths** – JC confirmed that the pothole in Hog Lane had been repaired and that WSCC had cut the hedges along B2139.

**(c) Assets and Amenities** – HA advised nothing to report.

**(d) Amberley Neighbourhood Plan delivery** – TS advised that with regard to the car park, funding is required for this from the Strawberry Villas development, this is expected to start within the next 6-8 weeks, some funding has also been secured from Section 106 funds. There are also a few planning issues to be resolved with regard to landscaping and the culvert, confident that these will be resolved once a contractor is on site.

**(e) Amberley Climate Change** – No update this month. GU asked HA to introduce ET to this group.

 **(f) Finance** – The December 2020 bank reconciliation and bank statement were approved and signed. The financial statement for the period 1st November to 31st December 2020 was agreed by council and signed. The financial statement is as follows;



**9. REVIEW AND AGREEMENT OF THE 2021/22 BUDGET**

The clerk had circulated prior to the meeting, councillors agreed the budget and precept. Resolved – clerk to notify HDC.

**10 DISCUSSION ON SUPPORT FOR LOCAL BUSSINESSES POST COVID-19**

GU asked councillors to consider ideas for encouraging people to use local businesses after Covid-19, Amberley PC are also working with Bury PC to look at initiatives. GU suggested a directory of local businesses could go on the website. Resolved councillors to consider for next meeting.

**11. EXTERNAL MEETINGS ATTENDED BY COUNCILLORS**

PJC attended a SDNPA virtual workshop, copies of presentations have been circulated to members. He advised there are some good initiatives happening, including funding to local businesses and an online interactive tourism map.

PJC advised that the SDNPA are hopefully that the government’s White Paper on Planning will not apply to National Parks, awaiting confirmation.

**12. TO NOTE THE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

11th March 2021 at 7pm via zoom.

GU closed the meeting at 8.22pm.

Vicky Spiers - Clerk to Amberley Parish Council – 18th January 2021